Daily Report

Latin America

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L.A. Parliament Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

PA121824 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 8

["Text" of resolution issued by the Latin American Parliament in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 8 April]

[Text] Concerned about the serious incidents that have taken place in Panama, the Latin American Parliament's political commission, in a meeting held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,

AGREES: [subhead]

1. To vehemently condemn the U.S. aggression against Panama, which violates its sovereignty and its right to be a free and independent country.

2. To support, through its parliament, the Panamanian people in this difficult crisis, and to call, on behalf of Latin American legislators, for the immediate suspension of the aggression.

3. To request the parliaments of this organization's member states to take a stand without delay in support of the Panamanian people.

4. To express its most vehement desire that this sister nation return to normalcy in the shortest time possible within a framework of peace, so it may fully exercise its democratic rights.

Victor Julio Roman, rapporteur—Costa Rica

Edgar Molina—Ecuador

(The result of the vote on this resolution was 29 votes in favor; 1 against, cast by the Dominican Republic; and 2 abstentions.)

Political Commission Head Cited

FL130130 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2052 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Latin American Parliament has unanimously rejected U.S. interference aimed at destabilizing the Panamanian Government and the actions taken by the Chilean Government to block the return of democracy.

This was stated in a document issued at the end of the first formal meeting of the Political Commission of the recently-created Latin American Parliament.

Mexico's Manuel Ramos Gurrion, chairman of the parliament's Political Commission, stated that Mexico believes it is essential to have uniform laws regarding the use, consumption, and trafficking of drugs so that effective prosecution can be carried out against those who are involved in such activities. He noted that it is also necessary to fight production and discourage drug consumption.

Ramos Gurrion asserted that Mexico has been especially affected by drug smuggling because of its proximity to the United States, one of the largest narcotics markets in the world.

The Political Commission of the Latin American Parliament met between 7 and 10 April in Santo Domingo. Ramos Gurrion said the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica abstained from condemning U.S. attacks on Panama.

Regarding Chile's case, the participants of the meeting favored a Cuban proposal aimed at reaching an agreement on the organization's solidarity with the efforts of the Chilean people in their quest for democracy. The commission rejected the steps taken by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet to hold a plebiscite, which they called fraudulent.

Finally, the U.S. Government was urged to end its policy encouraging and giving economic support to the Nicaraguan contras because it goes against the peace efforts being made for the area.

Soviet Group Arrives for Guatemala IPU Meeting

PA092222 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] A Soviet parliamentary delegation arrived in our country yesterday. The Soviet delegation immediately asked Guatemalan authorities for information on tourist centers, which they will visit before the 79th IPU meeting begins. The members of the conference's organizing committee today await the arrival of most of the delegations that will participate in this political meeting, which will draw the world's attention to Guatemala.

Cuba

Further on Visit of Congolese Prime Minister

Received by Education Minister

FL120255 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Ange Edouard Poungui, prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo, has held talks with various leaders of the Cuban Government during his visit to our country.

Poungui was received today by Jose Ramon Fernandez, minister of education and alternate member of the PCC Politburo. The Congolese prime minister was accompanied by his country's education minister, Pierre-Damien Boussoukou-Mboumba.

During the fraternal meeting, the Cuban minister explained the progress of the preliminary [words indistinct] of the Pan-American Games, which will be held in our country in 1991. The meeting also served as a vehicle for exchanging experiences in the field of education.

Talks With Risquet

FL121531 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee, has received Ange Edouard Poungui, member of the Politburo of the Congolese Labor Party and prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo. Poungui is on an official working visit to our country at the invitation of the Cuban Government.

The two leaders exchanged views in depth on the state of bilateral relations. They also expressed their satisfaction with the extensive ties of cooperation and friendship that exist between Cuba and the Congo.

The Congolese prime minister referred to the productive meetings he held during his visit. The existing possibilities for continued development of bilateral cooperation became evident during these talks.

For his part, Risquet reiterated to the distinguished visitor the solidarity of our party and government with the brother Congolese people. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Meets International Red Cross Head

FL120240 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received today Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the delegation accompanying him.

The importance the Cuban Government and the International Red Cross give to their relations was confirmed during the talks. Carlos Rafael termed the relations as long-standing and solid. As an example of these ties, Sommaruga recalled the request made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for assistance in the turning over of the Batista army soldiers, who were prisoners of the rebel troops, and the participation of Red Cross representatives when the prisoners were turned over.

UJC Honors Collective Defending Angola

FL120350 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The combative merit of the collective that participated in the defense of Cuito Cuanavale has been acknowledged during a ceremony held in Angola.

The banner of honor, the highest incentive the UJC [Union of Young Communists] grants to collectives that excel in an extraordinary manner in carrying out their duty, was taken to the People's Republic of Angola on the 26th anniversary of the UJC and the 27th annivesary of the Pioneer Union of Cuba.

These youths, courageous defenders of Cuito Cuanavale, are laying the foundations for such a precious banner to wave bravely and decisively.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] You know what this reminds me of?

[Second speaker] What does this remind you of?

[First speaker] It reminds me of the battles in Ethiopia, where we were also given the banner in the palace. It is very pretty. This is the symbol of the heroism of our youth, right? We have to continue being worthy of it, for Cuito, and what Cuito stands for, for all humankind, as the commander in chief says.

We are going to prepare ourselves well so that each shot we fire leaves one less enemy, one less tank, one less vehicle, and we are going to prepare ourselves to eliminate them with the force of our revolution, which is basically our youth. When that force is applied to the tank, the tank jumps. Right? And the revolutionaries inside the tank also jump. Fatherland or death!

[Troops respond] We will win! [end recording]

Carneado Interviewed on Religious Freedom

FL101404 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1313 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Feature from "Weekly Magazine": "Scores of Churches Restored; Interview with Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the PCC Central Committee's Religious Affairs Department, by (Edel Zaldivar)"]

[Text] A lawyer and journalist by profession, Dr Jose Felipe Carneado has agreed to answer some questions about religion in Cuba.

At present, relations between the church and the state can be described as normal, reciprocally respectful, and fluid as concerns communications between the two. It could be added that there is a clear will at present to gradually and constructively improve these relations, both as regards the Catholic Church and the evangelical or Protestant churches in general, according to Carneado, who is a distinguished professor at the University of Havana and a member of the PCC Central Committee.

The reporter asked Dr Carneado: Does the state help in the conservation of churches and religious buildings? Of course, he replied. As is known, the ecclesiastical, Catholic, and Protestant churches built in the 19th century—and there are quite a few—and those that illustrate considerable architectural and aesthetic value are legally classified as national monuments. They are part of the country's historical-cultural heritage. A Culture Ministry commission is in charge of their conservation and maintenance. The state's economic investments in the accomplishment of this important task are substantial, Carneado said.

Nearly 60 churches, seminaries, and cathedrals in 11 Cuban provinces have been jointly restored by the state and the church.

We asked Carneado: But do those people who practice eclectic cults have freedom of assembly? Those who believe in what are called occult-eclectic religions, in which Catholicism and African religions are mixed, also enjoy due official respect and complete freedom as long as they respect the law and the well-being of the public in their respective [words indistinct] practices. This right, which belongs to everybody, is recognized and guaranteed by Article 54 of the Constitution, Carneado says.

We asked Carneado: Does the state intervene in any way in the seminarians' religious studies? In pursuance of the principle of church-state separation, the latter does not interfere in the internal affairs of the former. The selection and enrollment of seminarians in religious studies, as well as their ordination and subsequent assignment to the various parishes and churches, are the exclusive province of the ecclesiastical authorities. The same thing can be said about the designation of bishops, pastors, or evangelical ministers, and other church dignitaries, Carneado stresses.

The conversation with Carneado, one of the founders of the PCC, turned to another topic. We asked him: Are there people convicted for religious reasons in Cuba? No one is or ever has been sanctioned for religious reasons in our country. Penal legislation does not recognize belief in a creed as a crime. This is a private matter and is respected as such. It is the duty of everyone, believers and nonbelievers alike, to respect the law. The claim that there might be prisoners in Cuba held for religious reasons is one of the many lies spread by the anti-Cuban propaganda centers, Carneado concluded.

Bahamas

Pindling Comments on Drug-Related Charges

FL111816 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 10, CANA—Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has denied drug-related charges made against him by a confessed dealer, William Baron.

Sir Lynden dismissed the allegations as just part of Baron's plea-bargaining deal.

Baron made the charges last February during testimony in the Carlos (Joe) Lehder trial, currently being heard in Jacksonville, Florida.

Baron testified that he met Sir Lynden in a casino in the Bahamas and gave the prime minister a suitcase full of money in exchange for favours related to drug trafficking through the Bahamas into the United States.

According to Baron, the prime minister opened the suitcase and shared its contents with his deputy, Clement Maynard. Maynard denied the charges.

Speaking in parliament, Sir Lynden said Baron's allegations were "off the wall" and merely "part of a plea bargaining deal", in order for Baron to receive a light sentence and have charges against his parents dropped.

The prime minister, whose silence had given rise to speculation that Baron's charges had substance, said he had not intended to respond to the allegations until after the Lehder trial ended.

He was prompted to respond, he said, after deputy leader of the opposition Free National Movement, Orville Turnquest, brought the matter before parliament.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Paul Adderley, has said the Bahamas will this year spend 75 to 77 million dollars (US) in combating drug dealing and other crimes.

He told parliament the Bahamas spends more per capita to fight drug trafficking than does the U.S.

Adderley said there is no drug problem in the Bahamas. This country is merely used as a transit point for drugs intended for the U.S., he said.

However, said the attorney general, "it is our international obligation to assist...in the suppression of drugs..."

Opposition Questions Pindling Far East Trip

FL111811 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 10, CANA—The Bahamas main opposition party, the Free National Movement (FNM), has asked the government to account publicly for money spent on a recent government-organised trade mission to the Far East.

According to deputy leader of the FNM, Orville Turnquest, the party "intends to agitate off and on the floor of the house (of Assembly) unless and until the government gives a full accounting."

The 31-man trade mission was led by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling. It included government officials, private businessmen and Lady Pindling, wife of the prime minister.

Before the 11-day trip government announced that the mission's intention was to promote the Bahamas as a shipping, tourism and off-shore banking centre.

During the visits, Bahamian radio and TV carried daily reports, originating in the Far East, giving information on developments.

While the reports were optimistic, the delegation returned without fanfare and has since made no public statement on what the visit achieved.

The FNM said it wants to know how much money for the trip came out of the public purse.

The party asserted that the public is "clamouring for straight answers".

Grenada

Senate President Resigns, Takes New Post

FL122300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2101 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 12, CANA—President of the Grenada Senate Alphonsus Antoine has resigned, according to the latest government gazette.

The resignation, which took effect at the end of March, came less than 1 month after Antoine was elected as Senate president to replace Larry Joseph, who was appointed minister of state for legal affairs and national security.

Antoine has since taken up the newly created post of agricultural economist with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Haiti

Manigat Radio Discussion of Contraband, Drugs

FL121548 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 0000 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Bimonthly "Friendly Chat With the People" by President Leslie Manigat; from Manigat's residence, date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Haiti's situation is one that many find strange because conditions in Haiti are positive but there are a number of rumors designed to make people believe conditions are negative. [passage omitted]

You must make a distinction between reality, the work that is actually being done in the country, and the people who are talking and thinking they can cause difficulties for the government through words. When they see they can't, they try to go further. [passage omitted]

After the 30 years those Duvalier people spent in Haiti, I can understand why a foreigner, analyzing the Duvalier regime, called it a hurricane that devastated the country. So, friends, we have to put the country in order, but this is not easy. The country is terribly poor. U.S. aid was cut off and this constitutes one more difficulty. [passage omitted]

The legacy we inherited has led to incredible situations. Not only is there widespread immorality and corruption, but there is a total absence of the concept of common good. Everyone is only interested in his own job. [passage omitted] There is confusion between what belongs to the Haitian people and what belongs to individuals. [passage omitted] Please understand that the legacy is a heavy one. When we start firing people, they are unhappy. Yet you must understand that if you want change, things have to change. [passage omitted]

There are people who know we are approaching their sector. [passage omitted] As they realize this, interest groups start forming and they start declaring they are going to strike. [passage omitted] So now, as you can see, things have come to the point where we must speak clearly to the Haitian people. The Haitian people must understand that some would like the current government, which is working in the interest of the Haitian masses, to encounter difficulties. Certain people would like to systematically create greater problems for the government on top of the big problems Haiti is trying to solve. [passage omitted]

We take problems seriously and that's why we are going to attack a big problem that no one thought we would really get to: contraband. [passage omitted] We have taken a first series of measures that are going to be applied starting next week. Technicians from four ministries are going to be brought together to form the basis of the struggle against contraband. The Ministries of

Finance and Economic Affairs, Interior and Decentralization, Industry and Commerce, and Defense and Armed Forces are going to take joint action to show that we are determined not to allow contraband to become the normal way Haitian foreign trade is conducted, as is unfortunately the direction in which we are heading now. [passage omitted]

The new measures will be applied at three borders: land, sea, and air. [passage omitted] Customs officers are going to start doing their job at the airport.[passage omitted]

You know a number of ports are now open to foreign trade. This is great! It is, in fact, government policy to open ports to foreign trade so that Port-au-Prince will not be the only gateway. [passage omitted] Decentralization requires this. Contraband must not become the specialty of the provincial ports. [passage omitted]

We have begun reforming the Customs administration. We aren't finished. Indeed, we have just begun and we are going to continue. We need competent, serious, honest customs agents to man the different ports. These people must do their job and collect the duties specified by law in fixed schedules,and in the proper amounts. [passage omitted] There will be roving teams along the roads between the ports and Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted] These teams will work (?5) days a week to back up the customs agents. [passage omitted] They will also inspect and verify.

Next, there will be control stations at strategic positions to seize the big trucks carrying contraband merchandise to Port-au-Prince. For example, at the weighing station in Leogane, there will be a team of 4 soldiers and 2 fiscal inspectors on duty 24 hours a day. There will be another station at Carrefour Shada. [passage omitted] On the Saint-Marc to Gonaives road, there will be a team of five customs agents and four soldiers to provide control of merchandise. On the road between Port-de-Paix and Cap Haitien, there will also be a team of four soldiers and two inspectors. Finally, on the Petit-Goave to Miragoane road, there will be a team consisting of six soldiers and four customs agents. These teams will be there to verify transport of merchandise. Remember that the law and the customs regulations formally state that contraband merchandise and the vehicles transporting it can be seized and sold at auction. [passage omitted]

Of course, when you take measures against contraband, before these measures start producing results, you are going to have attempts to speculate, and this will affect the cost of living. That is why we have created a committee within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to watch over the cost of living. This committee is already at work. [passage omitted] A surveillance committee will be installed, which will intervene whenever artificial shortages are created without reason and prices rise because of speculation. [passage omitted]

It's fine for everyone to make a normal profit, but bear in mind that there is a way to do it, that there is a reasonable profit margin, and that there is such a thing as the public interest. Our job is to defend the public interest. [passage omitted]

There is also the problem of state income. [passage omitted] There are many people who owe the state money in unpaid income tax, both individual and business income tax; in unpaid customs duties; in unpaid services, such as telephone service. [passage omitted] We have formed collection teams, particularly at Customs and, most especially, at the General Tax Office. Brigades have been formed. These brigades will systematically ask those who owe back taxes to pay. [passage omitted]

Money has already started coming in. Some businesses rushed to pay. [passage omitted] The money was there. They could have paid but they were waiting for someone to ask for it.

If someone is having difficulties, we will be understanding. We are not out to destroy businesses! On the contrary, we need business to flourish in Haiti. [passage omitted] If you have a problem, come talk to us. [passage omitted] We will take your problem into account. We will find a way to allow you to pay. This is normal! But the money must come in, because Haiti needs roads, schools, hospitals. Where are we going to get the money for them? We don't have a money tree. Thus, it is normal that the country organize its income.

We are going to reorganize the country differently, too, so that income will be put to better use and also foreign aid will give us a little boost. [passage omitted]

Our feeling is: If people want Creole pigs, give them Creole pigs. [passage omitted] We harbor no prejudice in favor of imported pigs. [passage omitted] All we say is: Watch out! Don't you allow yourselves to be prejudiced against the imported pigs. Take a look and see if you can't raise imported pigs because the yield is better. You can change their food so as not to have to depend on imported food. [passage omitted]

Listen carefully, all we say is: First, seek your Creole pigs from a place with conditions similar to Haiti's. You might be very surprised to acquire a Creole pig only to find that it is accustomed to eat different food from what our pigs eat. [passage omitted]

Regarding the toxic waste problem, imagine! People wanted to organize a demonstration as if there were no unanimity in Haiti on this matter! [passage omitted] There are four ministries working on this! [passage omitted] Watch out! There are people using problems to create unjustified panic. [passage omitted] You need not panic. We chose to get a second opinion because we didn't want to run the risk of being told later: You didn't take the matter seriously enough. [passage omitted]

Everyone can demonstrate together because we all see this matter the same way. We all want to defend the people's interests, the people's health. [passage omitted]

The government has now begun truly reestablishing our relations with foreign countries. [passage omitted] They voted in favor of considering our admission into the Lome accord. [passage omitted] This does not mean only that the development funds of the EEC will be available to us. There is a considerable advantage in being part of Lome. The foreign minister explained this to you once: something called (?stabex), the stabilization of export product (?prices). [passage omitted]

The drug thing is serious. [passage omitted] We have to have the means to struggle against drugs. Our position on drugs is clear, firm, and definitive: We don't want drugs for our youth or for our peasants. We don't want drugs to come ruin our human resources. Drugs destroy people and we are against them. We are against them not just for ourselves, but for others too because we do feel international solidarity. Thus it is normal that we participate in the international struggle against drugs. But, pay attention! We are saying we would like to participate within a regional and multilateral context so that no one can come and say to us: It was you who did this or that. [passage omitted]

Don't come and point your finger at us and (?say it's all our fault). This is not true.

There is something I would like to add. If anyone, regardless of the continent—Europe, Asia, Africa, or Oceania—says: You have such and such a precise case of drug involvement in Haiti, we say: OK. Give us the dossier. Give us a solid, well-documented dossier. Show us proof.

We will take this dossier and channel it to the proper authorities here, who will examine it and see if the accusation is valid. If the proper authorities, the proper institutions, recognize the validity of the accusation, we will make the necessary decisions.

But don't just sit back and say to me: So and so did this or that [words indistinct]. No.

Give me proof. Give me the dossier. I will study it, I will consider my national interest, I will study the situation, and then I will give you a proper answer in keeping with this government's hostility to drugs, drug addiction, and drug-trafficking. [passage omitted]

Understand the problem properly. The problem is not just a matter of drugs. It involves a problem of national sovereignty. There is a problem of how international cooperation is viewed. If you think of us as partners and show us the respect due to partners, if you give us the means with which to inform ourselves, the means with which to judge, in order to be able to reach a decision, that's all it takes. That's all there is to it!

This is a normal position. But what happens is that some people are surprised when a little country takes a position like this, as if only big countries have a right to do this. No. It is our right to take this position. Just because we are a small country it does not mean that a big country can stand up and frown and have us immediately drop to our knees. No. Tell us how things are. Explain things to us. Sit down and talk to us, convince us. You will find in us the best of friends. There need be no doubt about this.

If it takes you awhile to understand this, we will just have to wait until you do understand. We hope you will come to understand this very quickly because no one is more willing than we are to be solidary in all spheres, both on the continent and worldwide. [passage omitted]

Some strikes are illegal and when a strike is illegal there are sanctions. There are some strikes that you can see immediately are political. [passage omitted] At the Minoterie d'Haiti, a day laborer, an unskilled worker, makes between $9.50 and $11.00 per day. [passage omitted]. This is the kind of workers certain people are at present pushing to strike in demand of a wage increase. [passage omitted] I'm not saying the worker doesn't deserve to make that much. What I'm saying is that with the condition the country is in right now, it is not the worker who should be striking for a wage increase. [passage omitted]

You can see that the government is determined to be straightforward with you, to tell you what the problems are, what solutions are available, how things are going, in order to enable you to understand what is happening in Haiti and in what direction we are heading. To enable you to understand that democracy is more than just bad-mouthing the government over the radio. So that you will understand that democracy means working to solve the country's problems in favor of the people, in a climate of freedom and self-respect. So that we can truly feel that we are really on the way to getting everyone in Haiti treated as a human being. Because not everyone is as yet being treated like a human being. We ourselves consider everyone a human being. Thank you.

Further on Strikes at Various Installations

Flour Mill Strike Continues

FL121406 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] At Minoterie d'Haiti [the national flour mill], unionized workers have almost unanimously decided to continue their 3-day-old strike. During a consultative assembly, 310 out of 350 union members voted to remain on strike while awaiting a satisfactory answer from the plant's administration. The plant is at Lafiteau.

Questioned by telephone this morning, the vice president of the Minoterie's union declared that the strike is a legal one, because, he says, all the conditions stipulated in the revised labor code have been scrupulously respected. [passage omitted]

Cement Workers End Strike

FL112120 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Work resumed normally today, Monday, 11 April, at Ciment d'Haiti, where employees went on strike last Thursday. A Ciment d'Haiti communique says the strike was declared illegal by the Labor Ministry. Therefore, the administration called on strikers to resume work today or be fired. [passage omitted]

After union representatives and the administration met this morning, the strikers agreed to resume work while awaiting a second negotiating meeting scheduled for next Wednesday. [passage omitted].

Additional Strikes Reported

FL122121 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Employees of the pediatrics service in La Saline have gone on strike. They are demanding to be paid 3 months of back wages owed to them.

Employees of the SNEP, the National Potable Water Department, have also stopped work. This strike began yesterday in Leogane. The workers are demanding to be paid 4 months of back wages owed them.

Furthermore, the members of the Casec [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] of Leogane, who participated in the 17 January elections [as heard], are demanding that the results be published. They threaten to demonstrate within the next few days if this is not done.

Anti-Manigat Slogans, Abuse by Soldier Reported

FL111431 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] From the upper central plateau, our correspondent Alix Joseph informs us that slogans hostile to the Manigat government have appeared on walls in Thomonde.

[Joseph, speaking in Creole] In the commune of Thomonde, (?18) km from the town of Hinche, many slogans quite hostile to the Leslie Manigat government have been written on paper and affixed to walls. These same slogans express support for the Army.

Also, we have received an open letter to Dessalines Barracks Commander Colonel Jean Claude Paul dated 6 April 1988.

The note says: We denounce to you acts that a Dessalines Barracks soldier is (?committing) in (Terrain ak Papaye), a little area not far from Hinche.

The soldier's name is Alphonse Adrien, but he is known at the Dessalines Barracks by the name of Eliodore Adrien. This soldier is always intimidating and terrorizing people in (Pereuil), and he always fires his weapon when he is in the area. This makes people in the area very nervous.

On Good Friday, he went to where an Easter "rara" group was dancing. With his pistol butt, he smashed in the face of a boy named (Ronel Saintelmond). The boy's nose was broken, and he almost lost an eye. He is now suffering in a hospital bed.

According to (?certain) people, the soldier had come to carry out a mission for his colleague (Macio Anthiogus), another Dessalines Barracks soldier.

Third, on Tuesday, 5 April, Mr Eliodore Adrien, also known as Alphonse Adrien, met up with a member of a peasants group, (Odalbert Hyppolite), on the road to Papaye. He made him get down on his knees, rub his mouth in the dirt, and ask him for forgiveness. Why? Because 8 years ago, this young man had asked the soldier (?what) he loved.

We ask the Dessalines Barracks commander to stop this kind of thing in this area and to try and punish the soldiers according to the seriousness of the crime.

We went to the area to interview the soldier. When we met with Adrien, he told us that the part about the "rara" group was true, that there was a group of people in town, as he was going home, and that he had defended himself.

He said that this particular group of men have a personal quarrel with soldiers in the area, because the minute a soldier arrives in the area, they try to force him to reveal Army secrets—to tell them everything that is going on in the Dessalines Barracks.

Dominican Mayor, Assembly Members Pay Visit

FL082152 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Santo Domingo Mayor Dr (Rafael Sobervy Bonilla), accompanied by 16 members of the Santo Domingo municipal assembly, arrived in Port-au-Prince at 1000 today by land. The Dominican delegation was met at Carrefour Shada by Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain.

The delegation will be received by Haitian President Leslie Manigat at noon. At 1300, Franck Romain will receive the Dominican delegation at city hall in Port-au-Prince.

Meanwhile, a delegation made up of five Haitian senators left Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, 6 April, for Santo Domingo, where they will participate in the meeting of the Latin American Parliament.

This delegation is made up of Senate President Dr Louis Noisin, Senate Vice President Gerard Romulus, and Senators Reynold Georges, Julio Larosilliere, and Duplex Jean-Baptiste.

Ministries on Trade With Dominican Republic

FL122110 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A joint communique from the Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Public Administration; Interior and Decentralization; Commerce and Industry; and National Defense, Armed Forces, and Civic Service [name of ministry as heard] reminds the general public and merchants, in particular, that the Finance Ministry communique dated 7 November 1983 [as heard] suspends trade exchanges by land between Haiti and the Dominican Republic until the government strengthens the customs system.

Under the terms of that communique, trade exchanges must, obligatorily, be effected by air or by sea, through customs, throughout Haiti, in line with the procedures in force regarding consular invoices, manifestos, importation licenses, and advance notice of importation, etc.

Also, the ministries call the attention of those concerned to the dispositions of Article 234 and 235 of the Customs Code stipulating that not only will smuggled merchandise be seized but all means of transport used to carry the merchandise will be confiscated and sold at auction.

The four ministries are counting on everyone to cooperate and respect the legal dispositions and regulations on importation of merchandise.

The communique is signed by Alain Turnier, minister of finance; Yves L. Auguste, minister of interior and decentralization; Joseph Gerard Pierre, minister of commerce and industry; and Williams Regala, minister of national defense, armed forces, and military and civic service.

Smuggling Causes Incident With Dominicans

FL122035 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Smuggling continues to cause trouble in Haiti. Aside from the many different kinds of problems this scourge causes the country's economy, smuggling—which is being tolerated and benefits a handful of people—has just caused a new conflict.

In Ouanaminthe, in northern Haiti, eight people—seven Dominicans and one Haitian—were wounded Saturday during a clash between Haitians and Dominicans. This incident could have turned into something really serious. Here are the details.

There was an incident on Saturday, 9 April, in Ouanaminthe, where large-scale smuggling is conducted.

In the morning, a Haitian smuggler, who wanted to cross the border, paid two Dominican soldiers 4 pesos to let him pass. This is because people have been forced to cross the border secretly for some time now. As he returned from the Dominican Republic at around noon, the Haitian, carrying a bag of rice on his head, encountered the same two Dominican soldiers, who asked the smuggler to pay 25 Haitian gourdes.

During the course of an argument that ensued, one of the Dominican soldiers dealt the Haitian such a hard blow on the head with his rifle butt that the rifle broke.

Some fifty Haitians who were present then attacked the Dominican. The Dominicans quickly began firing into the air.

The Haitians ran to Ouanaminthe to report what had just happened. Immediately, a group of Haitians armed with clubs and machetes entered the marketplace and began attacking all the Dominicans they encountered.

Haitian soldiers had to go out into the streets to prevent a massacre. They escorted the Dominicans to the border to allow them to cross over into the Dominican Republic. Many Haitian civilians did not like the Haitian soldiers' doing this. They tried to attack the Dominicans despite the fact that the Haitian soldiers were escorting them. This is why the Haitian soldiers had to do a lot of firing into the air, too.

At around 1400, everything was quiet in Ouanaminthe. But at 1800 Dominican civilians were still standing by the water with machetes, clubs, and picks, watching all Haitians crossing over.

Radio (Malien), a Dominican radio station in Dajabon, in the news report it aired on Saturday evening, said the Haitian who had been struck was in the hospital in Dajabon, as were seven Dominicans. Among the Dominicans was one with a head wound and a broken hand.

In its analysis of the incident, the radio station blamed Dominican authorities, saying the reason things went this far was that Dominican authorities are forever trying to make money in any way they can.

Jamaica

PNP Defends Police Chief on Bribe Claims

FL111917 Bridgetown CANA in English 1832 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 11, CANA—Jamaica's political opposition has defended the integrity of the island's police chief following U.S. congressional testimony which claimed that a police commissioner was among officials taking bribes from drugs traffickers.

We wish to place on record that we have complete confidence in the integrity of the commissioner of police Mr Herman Ricketts and to repeat the assurance of our high regard for the manner in which he has been performing his duties, the main opposition People's National Party (PNP) said in a statement.

The testimony by convicted narcotics dealer Michael Vogel, did not provide specifics on when the police chief was allegedly bribed.

The current commissioner, Herman Ricketts, took office three years ago and the opposition People's National Party (PNP) used this fact to suggest that Vogel was not referring to Ricketts.

The PNP noted that the witness, appearing before the U.S. Senate last Tuesday, said his last visit to Jamaica was in 1985.

But the PNP offered no defense of Prime Minister Edward Seaga who has denied allegations by Vogel that he was sending very large sums to the Cayman Islands and that he owned a 38-million-dollar building there.

The PNP used much of its statement defending its anti-drug record while in office in the 1970's, accusing Seaga of being devisive and attempting to score political points in a radio and television broadcast on Friday night.

The Marxist Worker's Party of Jamaica (WPJ) posed several questions to be clarified in order for Jamaicans to make up their minds in a non-partisan way on the drug allegations.

The WPJ also called for lawyers nominated by the bar association, the human rights council and other patriotic organisations to join Seaga's proposed team of government lawyers to question Vogel on his allegations.

Seaga said in his broadcast that he and other officials were subject to a smear campaign because of Jamaica's strong and successful anti-drug campaign.

Jamaica protested to the U.S. State Department over the testimony, complaining that Vogel's testimony was allowed to stand without deep probing to substantiate its veracity.

The State Department had earlier praised Jamaica's anti-drug efforts and in a statement on Friday said Vogel's charge was completely unsubstantiated and at best hearsay.

The PNP took exception to Seaga's suggestion that though there was now a bi-partisan approach to drugs here, his government at first had no support in its campaign while it took unpopular decisions.

It is unfortunate that at this time when the office of the prime minister and our institutional leaders are being accused elsewhere, that Mr Seaga chose the occasion to seek political mileage over a matter on which we have been consistently seeking national consensus, said the PNP statement, issued by its national security spokesman, K.D. Knight.

The PNP claimed that its anti-drug campaign of the 1970's was shelved for three years after Seaga come to office in late 1980, with a resumption prompted only by U.S. threats to cut off aid.

We recall that one of the first policy statements by Mr Seaga after assuming office in 1980 was his instructions to commercial banks in Jamaica to accept foreign exchange, however earned, from whoever it came, and to welcome it with no questions asked.

This foreign exchange could well have come from drug barons, the opposition party said.

In his statement on the allegations, WPJ general secretary, Dr Trevor Munroe, also contended that the police commissioner to whom Vogel referred was not Ricketts.

He asked why the U.S. State Department did not reject outright Vogel's charge, instead of only declaring that it was unsubstantiated.

St Christopher and Nevis

Prime Minister Simmonds Pays Visit to Taiwan

FL122222 Bridgetown CANA in English 2053 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, April 11, CANA—Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds is paying a state visit to Taiwan for economic co-operation talks, government officials said on Monday.

Simmonds left over the weekend at the head of a five member delegation, which includes his wife Mary, Agriculture Minister Hugh Heyliger, the St Kitts-Nevis Ambassador to Taiwan Terrence Byron and the Director of Planning Aubrey Hart.

A government release said the visit is at the special invitation of the President of Taiwan Li Teng-hui. The state visit was originally planned for January this year, but was postponed following the sudden passing of the late President Chiang Ching-kuo.

Simmonds paid two previous visits to Taiwan in 1980 and 1983.

Trinidad and Tobago

Section Formed To Counteract Drug Trafficking

FL122228 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Trinidad's customs department has set up a new drug desk to deal specifically with attempts to smuggle illicit drugs.

The new desk on Sunday copped three people at Piarco Airport—two female Trinidadians and a Barbadian man, police said. The three were arrested at Piarco on Sunday night for attempting to leave with some 180 pounds of compressed marijuana. Those arrested are Mervyn D'Acosta Bourne from Barbados, and Antonian Adams and Elva Weekes from Trinidad. They were charged with being in possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

All three were taken before an Arima magistrate Monday. Bourne pleaded not guilty and the two women pleaded guilty. The two women were given a sentence of TT225,000 dollars (one TT dol; 27.7 U.S. cents) each or five years imprisonment.

The maximum sentence for trafficking here, if the case comes up in the magistrates court, is a TT50,000 dollars fine or three times the value of the drug with the alternative of ten years in prison.

Bourne, who pleaded not guilty, was remanded until April 20. He was placed on a TT one million dollar bail.

Honduras

Government To Lift State of Emergency 13 April

PA121909 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1844 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report by Jose Rolando Sarmiento from Honduras]

[Text] A few minutes ago the spokesman for the Honduran presidential palace announced that the state of emergency has been suspended in Honduras. The state of emergency had been established following the violent actions that led to the burning of the U.S. Consulate, the destruction of several vehicles, and the arrest of people in the three main cities of Honduras.

Press Secretary Lisandro Quesada made the following announcement:

[Begin recording] Press Communique:

President Jose Azcona, because the causes that led to a state of emergency have disappeared and normalcy has been reestablished in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, has decided to lift the state of emergency at 0600 on 13 April and reestablish the constitutional guarantees. [end recording]

This is what the press secretary announced. The state of emergency has been suspended in the Republic of Honduras.

Nicaragua

H. Ortega Letter to Calero on 15 April Meeting

PA130441 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Announcement by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on letter from Defense Minister Humberto Ortega to Nicaraguan Resistance Director Adolfo Calero; dated 12 April]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community of the following message:

Managua, free Nicaragua, 12 April 1988

Adolfo Calero, director

In regard to the message received via fax from Roberto Ferrey, addressed to Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco today at 0806 hours, I state the following:

The constitutional Nicaraguan Government reiterates the urgent need to discuss at the highest level, in Managua on 15 April, those issues that could not be resolved at the meetings on 28 and 29 March and 5, 6, 7, and 8 April by the special commissions, as well as all the issues regarding the arrangement of a definite cease-fire, in accordance with the Sapoa agreement of 23 March.

To facilitate this effort, I reiterate the proposal that the technical and military commissions meet on 13 and 14 April in Managua to prepare the high-level meeting. I note that this proposal, made by Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco in his message via fax dated 11 April, was not answered by Roberto Ferrey in his message sent via fax at 0806 hours today.

The constitutional Nicaraguan Government is worried because in Mr Ferrey's message today, he stated that the 15 April meeting is subject to the special commissions' having agreed on the location, size, and modus operandi of the zones. This means that the 15 April meeting would be held on the condition that the special commissions achieve in 1 day what they have not achieved so far in 6 days of work. This seems to indicate that a pretext is being sought by your organization to make the meeting a high-level meeting which, according to the Sapoa agreement, should have been held on 6 April but was unilaterally suspended by your organization.

This situation is a serious danger to the peace process, the objective of which is reintegration in normal life of those people who have belonged to the Resistance's irregular forces.

The constitutional Nicaraguan Government insists on the need to hold the meeting on 15 April because if it is not held because of the directorate's [words indistinct], the establishment of a new date would have to take into account the schedules of OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares and His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who, because of their other responsibilities, cannot be asked to devote all of their time to this process.

I must say that I would find the arrival in Managua of the advance group, whom you have agreed to send at our invitation and under the leadership of Roberto Ferrey, very useful so they can see the physical conditions of the area where the 15 April meeting will be held.

To conclude, I express my conviction that the many problems that have emerged during this peace effort must not discourage us and that the high-level meeting, with all its potential, is essential to overcoming the difficulties in fulfilling the Sapoa agreements within the deadlines established. This is a historic step, and we must not regress.

Fully assured of your attendance at the high level meeting,

Attentively, free fatherland or death,

[Signed] Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra

Defense Minister

Issued in Managua on 12 April 1988

[Signed]'Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency

U.S. Aid to Children 'New Propaganda Ploy'

PA130151 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed article: "Vulgar Propaganda Ploy: CIA Charters Aircraft With Meager Aid for Children It Mutilated"]

[Text] The Sandinist Government has termed the Reagan administration's attempt to bring into the country articles allegedly "donated" to Nicaraguan children—articles that would be distributed through the newspaper LA PRENSA and that included a minimum amount of paper for the printing of that newspaper—a mockery of the Nicaraguan people and children in general.

The U.S. Government sought to make such a shipment purely for propaganda aims, using as a front the "America Foundation," a private organization that has been characterized as a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) conduit and which on other occasions has given money to the "contras" and to the newspaper LA PRENSA.

Wire dispatches reported that U.S. Vice President George Bush had telephoned the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington to warn that if the Sandinist government builds obstacles to bringing in that "donation," it would be denounced as a threat to freedom of expression in that country.

Bush's Threats [subhead]

Bush even threatened to not send the new U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, although he did not believe that the May 1985 commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Nicaragua prohibits U.S. exports to Nicaragua except for those sent to the so-called "democratic resistance" organizations, or contras.

Apparently the U.S. vice president is either violating his own laws in relation to the commercial embargo against Nicaragua or is agreeing that the newspaper LA PRENSA is the official organ of the counterrevolutionaries.

They Withdraw Paper [subhead]

Local sources reported that yesterday morning the newspaper in question withdrew more than 40 tons of paper as part of the quota that the Industries Ministry had assigned to the paper.

Immediately thereafter, EL NUEVO DIARIO published the text of a communique issued yesterday by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic explaining the Reagan administration's new propaganda ploy:

The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic advises the Nicaraguan people and the international community of the following:

1. The commercial embargo imposed by the U.S. Administration on our country on 1 May 1985, aside from being immoral in view of its effects on the welfare of our people, was declared illegal by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] of the Hague on 27 June 1986 for violating international law and the bilateral friendship, commercial, and navigation treaty between the United States and Nicaragua, as well as for violating the norms and principles established in the GATT agreements.

2. The Nicaraguan Government reiterates that it welcomes any humanitarian aid that friendly governments and peoples give to our country to alleviate the suffering that the illegal and immoral war imposed by the current U.S. Government is causing our peoples.

Such aid will always be accepted so long as it respects the sovereign right of the Nicaraguan state to use it without set conditions.

CIA Conduit [subhead]

3. We have received with surprise the information that, for propaganda purposes, the U.S. Administration attempted to use the "America Foundation," which has been characterized as a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) conduit, to send a so-called humanitarian shipment of articles for Nicaraguan children on a specially chartered flight to the newspaper LA PRENSA. That shipment would also contain a few days' supply of newsprint for that paper.

4. The Nicaraguan Government believes this intended shipment to be a mockery of the Nicaraguan children and the Nicaraguan people in general, since that paper from the United States was accompanied by articles "donated" in insignificant quantities, solely for the purposse of disguising the fact that this was merely a propaganda maneuver.

5. The trade embargo against Nicaragua, based on an executive order issued by the U.S. President and based on a so-called national emergency under the International Economic Emergency Powers Act, states that it is strictly forbidden to send U.S. products to Nicaragua, except for shipments sent to the so-called democratic resistance organizations. Access to U.S. products by the rest of the Nicaraguan population is thus forbidden.

6. The U.S. Government is attempting to portray the scarcity of paper in the country, which is caused by a lack of foreign exchange, as a threat to freedom of expression. We emphatically reject this. In the past few days the Nicaraguan Government delivered to the newspaper LA PRENSA an adequate supply of this material, contributed by the Supreme Electoral Council, pending the

arrival of the next ship with paper that has been purchased in the USSR through a line of credit. This paper will be distributed equally among the media and to meet the country's educational needs. The shipment is scheduled to arrive in Nicaragua in the next few days.

7. We urge the U.S. Government to abide by international law by respecting the ICJ's resolution on the trade embargo. In this regard, we urge the U.S. Government to demonstrate its political willingness to support the Esquipulas agreement and the agreements subsequently signed by Nicaragua in Sapoa by not extending the present trade embargo, which expires on 30 October 1988, in order to promote the development of normal relations between our two countries.

Comparison of Government Cease-Fire Proposal

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 9 April on page 6 carries the text of the Nicaraguan cease-fire proposal. It has been compared with the Managua Domestic Service version published in the 11 April Latin American DAILY REPORT, pages 21-24, revealing the following variations:

page 23, column two, paragraph eight, line two: ...of this agreement, established the following well-known reference sites for each zone. (Here the names of these sites will be given.) The joint commissions and the representatives of the Verification Commission will operate at these sites until a final cease-fire shall have been reached. (rewording)

page 24, column one, paragraph one, line one: In testimony of which, the undersigned sign the present agreement in four equal copies in Sapoa, Rivas, Nicaragua, on 8 April 1988.

Sapoa, 8 April 1988 (supplying indistinct words, rewording)

Panama

U.S. Marine Killed, Helicopter Crashes

PA121851 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1820 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] This morning in Washington Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard confirmed that a U.S. Marine was shot to death by his fellow servicemen. This was labeled as a regrettable incident. The same spokesman confirmed that eight soldiers were injured in another accident when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed. Wait for further details on these incidents, which reveal a collective nervousness among U.S. soldiers. These soldiers were sent here recently to intimidate the Panamanian people.

FDP Spokesman Comments

PA130012 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2329 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have rejected accusations made by a Pentagon spokesman regarding an accident that took place Monday night near Howard Air Force Base, in which at least three [as heard] U.S. Marines were killed and several injured.

Major Daniel Delgado has said, on behalf of the FDP, that the institution is being careful not to succumb to provocations to avoid justifying a U.S. military intervention in Panama.

[Begin Delgado recording] In addition, last night there was also an air accident between two helicopters belonging to the U.S. Armed Forces here in Panama. This incident took place at Fort Sherman, on the Atlantic side of our country. The helicopters crashed as they approached each other as they were about to land. Some members of the U.S. Army who have come to our country were injured.

The U.S. Army's actions in the canal area are completely excessive and inappropriate for the defense of the canal. In fact, the U.S. aircraft which are overflying our territory as part of their exercises are violating Panama's airspace. This could lead to accidents, like the one that occurred yesterday. There could be an accident involving commercial or private aircraft.

In other words, the U.S. Armed Forces are carrying out a number of actions that go beyond the needs of canal defense, not only as regards the number of troops, but also the activities that they are carrying out, which in our opinion are simply designed to intimidate the Panamanian people.

However, we want to warn the mothers of those U.S. soldiers who are in the United States that they will receive their sons' corpses. This aggression against our country is not only in total violation of international law and the treaties, but is also the implementation of a Rambo-syndrome policy toward our country, a policy we consider to be provocative by any standard and which will bring death and injury to U.S. soldiers.

We also appeal to the mothers of those U.S. soldiers, those U.S. youths who have come to our territory on a mission that they do not even understand themselves, in a situation and in a country with which they are not familiar, in a struggle that can bring great sorrow and mourning to the U.S. family. [end recording]

Further FDP Reaction

PA130132 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0007 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Today FDP Major Daniel Delgado said that American mothers will receive their sons' bodies if the United States invades Panama. Maj Delgado made the

statement during a news conference he held with the national and international press to categorically deny U.S. Defense Department insinuations linking Panamanian soldiers to the accident reported today at dawn, in which a U.S. soldier was killed.

[Begin Delgado recording] I would like to refer to an incident that took place at dawn today, in which at least three U.S. soldiers stationed in the Panama Canal area were killed. Today Defense Department spokesman Dan Howard reported that at least one U.S. soldier had been killed in a crossfire between U.S. soldiers guarding the fuel reserves at Howard Air Force Base. Mr Howard insinuated that this regrettable incident, in which at least one American soldier was killed, took place when intruders in camouflage uniforms similar to those used by the FDP penetrated the area.

This insinuation is an attempt to implicate the FDP in an incident in which only U.S. soldiers were involved. The FDP has rejected the Defense Department spokesman's insinuations, describing them as tendentious and an attempt to involve the FDP in this regrettable incident that resulted in U.S. casualties. It is the FDP's opinion that these insinuations are aimed at making Americans believe that due to FDP actions American soldiers have been killed or wounded.

In my opinion this incident only demonstrates a lack of professionalism on the part of the soldiers brought to Panama on a mission they do not understand, to a land they were not born in, to a land they do not know, to a country that is not theirs, to fulfill an irrational policy of aggression against Panamanian territory. This incident, which resulted in U.S. casualties, once again demonstrates that the increased presence of U.S. forces in our territory and the psychological operations aimed at instilling fear in the Panamanian people have only made the U.S. soldiers stationed in Panama and their relatives nervous.

The FDP has demonstrated considerable wisdom, responsibility, and professionalism during this period, even with regards to the approximately 40 soldiers who over the past 2 weeks have entered Panama City in uniform, claiming to be lost. Those soldiers have not been mistreated. They have been returned to their places of origin by our units, in a display of wisdom in response to the provocation that those American soldiers' presence constitutes. In short, I want to report that, first, I reject the State Department [as heard] spokesman's biased assertions. I consider them a provocation aimed not only at justifying the U.S. military presence in Panama in the American people's eyes, but also at justifying aggression against our territory and people. The FDP will continue on its course of professionalism and wisdom to avoid succumbing to these provocations.

Meanwhile, last night an accident was reported involving two U.S. Army helicopters in Panama. This incident took place at Fort Sherman in the Atlantic area. The helicopters collided while preparing to land, and some U.S. Army troops were injured. I have not yet received an official report from the commanders of those troops, who are stationed on our territory, but I have been informed that an official report will be published as soon as the victims' relatives are notified. Nevertheless, we have been informed that one of the victims, one of those killed [as heard], is of Latin origin. Some of the troops brought to Panama, and I have said this before, are Latin, speak Spanish, and look like us.

Once again I want to stress that the Panamanian people are prepared to defend our country's sovereignty and defend ourselves from this aggression, but we will not under any circumstances cause provocations that would justify an armed intervention in our territory. [end recording]

Government Communique

PA130421 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0335 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Government and Justice in Panama City on 12 April]

[Text] The Ministry of Government and Justice, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, emphatically denies as false and tendentious the U.S. Government's insinuations regarding the alleged involvement of Panama Defense Forces, or of intruders wearing FDP uniforms, in the incidents that took place Monday night at the U.S. Howard Air Force Base on the banks of the Pacific end of the Panama Canal.

No Panamanians were involved in the incident, which exclusively involved U.S. soldiers, and in which at least three Marines were killed, according to reports received in this city. Not even the most naive could believe that a foreign patrol could infiltrate the largest U.S. military air base in Latin America without having a single one of its members captured, injured, or killed by the most powerful army in the world.

It is also untrue that the intruders were dressed in FDP uniforms, which are similar to those of the U.S. Army, and that the differences could be detected in the dark of night by inexperienced youths who fired on each other in their great nervousness, or under the effects of foreign substances.

We attribute to these same causes the other accident, which occurred in the Atlantic sector of the canal, in Fort Sherman, in which two Black Hawk helicopters were seriously damaged and several people injured.

We understand that the policy of lies in describing these incidents used by the U.S. official spokesmen seeks only to justify the events to the distressed parents of these youths, who have been sent to risk their lives unnecessarily, solely to demonstrate U.S. superiority over one of the smallest countries in the world.

We recall that on 31 March of this year, in a letter to the UN secretary general, Manuel Solis Palma, Panama's legitimate head of state, said that under no circumstances would the Republic of Panama fall prey to provocation or lend itself to the fabrication of incidents, and that the Panamanian Government would at all times duly guarantee the security and lives of the local and foreign civilian population, as well as the security of the Panama Canal and its administration, operation, maintenance, protection, and defense, in conformity with existing treaties and the international conventions to which Panama is a signatory.

We inform the local and international public that we will not be surprised if the FDP continues to be blamed for the errors of the U.S. military units, which were hastily transferred to the banks of the Panama Canal in violation of existing agreements and the norms of international law to justify actions of force that we will denounce at opportune moments to the civilized world.

Panama City, 12 April 1988.

Commentator Raps Charges

PA130245 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0050 GMT 13 Apr 88

["Today's World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] There are always two versions of every story, and what happened at Howard Air Force Base and at the Fort Sherman airport [as heard], are two regrettable accidents, but Washington's version offered through Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard is very different. [sentence as heard] Howard speaks of a preliminary theory about the incident in which a Marine died after being machinegunned in the stomach by a comrade. The two were guarding different points of an oil storage area. Howard invented the story that a group of six to eight members of the Panama Defense Forces in uniform were prowling in the area and appeared intent on attacking the oil tanks.

First of all, no military commandos operating clandestinely at night would wear uniforms. Second, they certainly don't send up flares so that they can be spotted or so that enemy fire can pinpoint them. Third, in the final analysis, no Panamanian has been injured or arrested. Therefore, that preliminary theory belongs to the world of fantasy to which we have become accustomed from Washington's channels of disinformation.

Dan Howard admitted that there were only preliminary facts available, and, finally, he talked about an accident. Meanwhile, he also admitted that there was a collision between a Cobra and a Black Hawk UH-60 helicopter at the Fort Sherman airport.

All of this is regrettable—the death of the Marine, the collision of the helicopters leaving several injured—because they reflect the excessive number of troops in an area in which there is no war and where 10,000 soldiers are already stationed in accord with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Those soldiers may remain there until midnight [as heard] on 31 December 1999.

However, since the problem in this contentious drama is to effect a show of force... [changes thought] We recently saw the aircraft carrier Nimitz, an atomic, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, off the coast of Nicaragua. That aircraft carrier could destroy Nicaragua in less than a day. Therefore, we are seeing a process in which there has been a loss of perspective of the danger, the true conflict, and the objectives that are being pursued. According to Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, Washington is trying to drive a hunter out of the woods. In order to do this, it is setting a fire, and in so doing it is destroying Panama.

Yesterday, in Santo Domingo, the Latin American Parliament approved a motion condemning the economic measures taken against Panama, asking for the withdrawal of the recently assigned troops, and stating that this is an act of aggression to destabilize the country for many years to come and justify the indefinite presence of U.S. troops at the canal.

All of Latin America is saying this. In other times, the hackneyed siren song of democratization, justice, and freedom might have moved the public. But the actions are so cruel, so clear, Washington's obsession is so marked, and there are such contemptible individuals involved—individuals who were born in Panama but who have degraded this country by seeking and pressuring for new attacks on the people's right to live in peace, to eat, and to carry out their activities—that all of this has turned off the Latin American, who knows that the United States has not been moved to take such measures to achieve democracy in countries in which democracy is on a much more precarious footing than in Panama.

Therefore, we have to regret the accidents—the death of the Marine, and the collision of the two helicopters—but all of this is part of a tragicomedy invented in Washington. That preliminary theory implicating members of the FDP deserves our definitive rejection. Panama does not commit provocations or practice terrorism, nor does it play around with drug trafficking. All these dastardly accusations have been designed to soften up the public and move the Latin American conscience. Every day, however, our brother peoples stand erect and close ranks with the 2.5 million Panamanians who are determined to continue defending their independence and their destiny.

What happened last night is another chapter in the psychological war. To accuse the FDP is definitely another infamous act in the era of the disinformation with which this country has been showered since June 1986.

FDP Deploys Troops After U.S. 'Provocation'

PA130515 Paris AFP in Spanish 0445 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (AFP)—The Panamanian Military Police staged an operation tonight to remove [desalojar] three U.S. trucks with soldiers who were checking vehicles transiting the Pan-American Highway in open "provocation" of the authorities of this country, an official source told AFP.

At the same time, in an unusual deployment, the Army tonight deployed armored vehicles and cars in the vicinity of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Headquarters in the western part of the city.

A good number of soldiers in combat gear were posted on various streets, together with the armored vehicles and military jeeps in the former Canal Zone, 4 km from the U.S. base.

Captain Moises Cortijo, who is commanding the Military Police operation and who graduated from West Point and is a translator for General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander, told AFP at the scene of the incidents that the U.S. troops, armed with M-16 rifles, "immediately fled, which is why there was no confrontation."

Minutes later, Cortijo added, Major Manfield of the U.S. Military Police arrived and apologized for the action of the U.S. soldiers, alleging that in the vicinity of Loma Coba, 7 km west of the capital and 4 from Howard Base, they had heard a shootout.

Likewise, Capt Cortijo said that what had happened was "a provocation," an illegal action in Panamanian territory." [quotation mark as received] Cortijo added that "if there was shooting, it was among the U.S. soldiers who are killing themselves."

Cortijo said that the Panama Defense Forces are going to report the incident to the Foreign Ministry for the Foreign Ministry to present its protest to the U.S. Government.

According to the soldier, the incidents that have occurred are the result of the fact that the new soldiers are not familiar with the country or the canal treaties. Quite the contrary—they come here "with a war mentality, and since they do not find the same type of mentality here, they want to create it."

Cortijo regretted "the alarm that the U.S. soldiers are creating among the civilian population," who "already feel invaded."

A contingent of 1,300 soldiers arrived in Panama last week, raising the number of soldiers in the canal area to 12,000.

Meanwhile, civilians who were using the road being blocked by U.S. soldiers said that there had been a confrontation among U.S. soldiers who were on a "night maneuver" and that the confrontation resulted in two deaths.

Today's incident occurred only a day after a U.S. soldier died in an "accident" at Howard Air Force Base. The Pentagon said that Panamanian soldiers, in camouflage, were involved in that incident.

This is the most serious incident that has occurred between the U.S. and Panamanian military since U.S. troops landed here last week.

A climate of tension prevailed tonight in the western part of the capital where the general command of Noriega's troops was strongly guarded by armored vehicles and cars, while a few meters from the scene of the incident the U.S. military continued to check vehicles passing through the military zone.

However, the rest of the city is calm.

U.S. Soldiers Detained; Canal Workers Protest

PA122224 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2126 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (DPA)—Today Panamanian employees of the Panama Canal asked General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], "to resign at the soonest possible moment."

A large number of employees "picketed" in front of the canal administration building asking Noriega to step down.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian police, who are entitled to maintain order in the Canal Zone in accordance with the U.S.-Panama treaties, took up positions in strategic places to prevent disorders.

The employees continued to demonstrate for several hours even though the Panama police surrounded the area and brought in "police dogs."

There were no direct clashes or disturbances but there was great tension in the sensitive Panama Canal Zone.

In another development, it was reported that six U.S. soldiers were arrested near the main FDP headquarters, where Gen Noriega's office is located.

The soldiers, who were wearing camouflage uniforms, were questioned for several hours and then released after receiving the appropriate warning from Panamanian authorities.

Today an FDP officer said the Panamanian volunteers who have joined the "people's militias" began training with "real weapons" today. It is estimated that some 4,000 Panamanians are receiving this training in various places in the capital.

A total of 60,000 pensioners whose checks are for less than 150 balboas received their money today. The checks were cashed at special posts because the banks are closed.

The Panamanian capital was under noticeably heavy guard today. Various protests and marches have been announced for tomorrow in Panama City.

The opposition National Civic Crusade remains in permanent session, and today a spokesman said that "we expect important developments to occur in the next few days."

Today the Crusade rejected a government proposal for a 30-day truce. It pointed out that "this is a trick to give Noriega time." They reiterated that "the condition for a dialogue is that Noriega leave the country first."

6 Arrested at PCC Protest

PA131259 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0034 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Human Rights Commission has reported that six people were arrested today following a demonstration in front of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Administration Building. The demonstration was held to demand General Manuel Antonio Noriega's removal from office.

Approximately 50 workers and Civic Crusade supporters staged the demonstration in front of the PCC Administration Building to demand that Gen Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander, be removed from office. No incidents were reported during the demonstration. The demonstrators shouted slogans such as: "Democracy yes, communism no" and "No to the militarization of the canal." Policemen in several patrol cars monitored the protest from a distance.

Panamanian Human Rights Commission sources said that after the demonstration, several demonstrators drove away in a car that was intercepted by the police. The sources added that Nidia Ruiz, Plinio Ramos, Ruben Barnett, Fernando Moreno, Frank Silvera, and Virgilio Ramirez were arrested.

Teachers Demonstrate Against Government

PA121640 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1208 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report by Homero Londono from Panama]

[Text] Yesterday the teachers in Panama gathered outside the Education Ministry to protest the attacks against them for holding rallies to demand payment of their salaries. Those attacks by the Panamanian Defense Forces again confirm the deep rancor, loathing, and contempt that Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, feels for teachers.

There have been physical attacks against teachers throughout the country; some have been wounded with birdshot. There is also economic persecution against the teachers by delaying payment of their salaries and by the government's not guaranteeing the cashing of their checks. Temporary teachers have not yet received even 1 centesimo.

Concerning the national dialogue as a civilized way to resolve the Panamanian people's problems, the teachers said this dialogue can only be held if General Manuel Antonio Noriega leaves his post immediately, because it is well known and undeniable that the majority of the people want it that way. Another condition is the immediate reopening of the communications media that were arbitrarity closed for dissenting with the military regime.

The teachers want the immediate removal of Gen Noriega and the immediate departure of Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma, who is now occupying the Presidency. They said that the UN human rights charter must be respected. This must be translated into the dismantling of the paramilitary gangs that exist in Panama, because those gangs are fascist monuments to barbarianism on the doorstep of the 21st century. In addition, the military must withdraw to their barracks.

Crusade Rejects Government Truce Proposal

PA122239 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2010 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today the opposition Civic Crusade rejected the truce proposal submitted by the Panamanian Government to the organizations taking part in a national dialogue coordinated by the People's Unity Front (FUP).

Today Civic Crusade spokesman Jose Manuel Burgos told ACAN-EFE that the government's proposal is only a "strategy to gain time" and allow General Manuel Antonio Noriega "to consolidate his power."

The proposal submitted by Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez and Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni contemplates a 1-month truce between

the government and the opposition. The truce includes the reopening of all opposition communications media and the release of all existing political prisoners.

In addition, the proposal states that the opposition will have to stop its demonstrations and its calls for "civil disobedience" against the government. Furthermore, the opposition's proposals for resolving the Panamanian crisis will have to be free of "foreign interference," particularly from the United States.

Burgos said that the basis for negotiations with the government would be Noriega's dismissal as chief of the Army and his subsequent departure from the country, plus the reopening of the media closed by the authorities.

Three newspapers (LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO) and three radio stations (KW Continente, Cadena Exitosa, and Radio Mundial) were closed based on charges of allegedly subverting public order, while Channel 5, Panavision Television Network, owned by overthrown President Eric Arturo Delvalle, had its license revoked.

Burgos said that the FUP-coordinated dialogue was in reality a "monologue" because no opposition group has taken part in it. The FUP is friendly to the government and is made up of unions of workers, peasants, and government employees.

The national dialogue, coordinated by the FUP to seek economic and political solutions to the crisis that has beset Panama for the last 11 months, started on 4 April in this capital.

Burgos affirmed that "we are struggling for the freedom of our people, and we do not accept the government's proposals because what they term concessions are rights of the Panamanian people."

Minister on 'Preconditions'

PA130015 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2324 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mario Rognoni, minister of commerce and industries, described the opposition's attitude as pitiful because of their refusal to engage in dialogue before going to the bargaining table and by demanding preconditions.

[Begin Rognoni recording] More important, I believe, is the negative reaction that certain opposition businessmen and politicians have for all attempts at dialogue. It seems like they have placed all their hopes, not in negotiations, not in elections, but in U.S. support to overthrow the government and hand to them political power on a silver platter. We believe that there is more to it than just political power. What is really at stake is the country's future, and this is why we would like to see at least one opposition group demonstrating to the people sincerity and honesty in its proposals and agreeing to sit down at a table with the other side of the national problem. [end recording]

Government Pays for Flour Seized on 26 March

PA121458 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] Mario Rognoni, commerce and industries minister, has delivered checks for $243,996.27 to General Mills, Inc., and Harinas Panama, Inc., to pay for 13,894 quintals of flour taken from their mills on 26 March.

The payment was received by the companies' managers, Tirso Wolfshoon for Harinas Panama, Inc., and Donald Halman for General Mills, Inc. The checks were delivered in Minister Rognoni's office. The event was attended by Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez, Antonio de Armas of the Price Regulation Office, Father Laureano Cresta Duran of Caritas, Victor Moreno of the Agrarian and Livestock Marketing Institute (IMA), and Deputy Commerce Minister [Rolando] Fung.

Harinas Panama, Inc. received a check for $152,412.05, and General Mills received a check for $91,584.00 [figures as published]. The payment was officially made through a note from the IMA. The government has thus paid for the flour taken on 26 March as a measure to provide the necessary raw material to all the bakeries so bread could be provided for all citizens.

Banks Reportedly Destroying U.S. Currency

PA130352 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 12

[Text] Following Gabriel Lewis Galindo's instructions, Ronald Reagan's government has instructed foreign banks, basically U.S. banks, to burn all U.S. notes in their vaults.

This new criminal act has been reported by "U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT," saying that banks in Panama are destroying their dollar reserves by using special paper shredding machines.

Auditors from the United States are here to carry this out, recording the serial numbers of the bills being destroyed, which will be replaced later by Reagan's government through the U.S. "Federal Reserve."

Reports state that yesterday the "Chase Manhattan Bank" alone burned $10 million in its vaults in the presence of U.S. auditors, who arrived in our country specifically for this sad action.

Reports also indicate that City Bank [as published] has burned negotiable notes, like travellers' checks and U.S. currency.

Industrialists: 50 Percent of Firms 'Paralyzed'
PA121935 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Carlos Valencia, president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP), yesterday told this newspaper that 50 percent of the approximately 600 industrial firms operating here are paralyzed as a result of the political and economic crisis the country has experienced during the last 10 months.

Valencia said this sector of the economy, which employs 60,000 people, has been affected by the shortage of dollars in circulation, the closing of the banks since 3 March, and the decrease in the demand for certain industrial products.

"It is impossible to determine now how many companies are going to go bankrupt," said Valencia, denying press reports over the weekend that 40 percent of industrial firms had declared bankruptcy.

In a communique released yesterday, the SIP expressed the hope that the banks, the unions, and the government will adopt policies and positions that can help the companies avoid bankruptcy.

"Bankruptcies and the extent of the damage to the industrial sector and the economy in general depend on how long the crisis lasts," the SIP communique said.

Exiled Crusade Leader Criticizes Noriega
PA121618 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0135 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Caracas, 11 Apr (EFE)—Today Panamanian Civic Crusade [CCN] leader Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra said that Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega is "a visible and deadly symbol of a military system" that cannot continue to govern his country.

De la Lastra was exiled from his country and arrived in Caracas last night. He told EFE that Noriega is a man who talks about nationalism but "has been a CIA agent." The CCN leader said Noriega "is a master of deceit and lies." He added that mediating the conflict will only "give oxygen to a person who is suffocating a nation."

De la Lastra denied the Panamanian opposition is divided. He noted that the opposition holds different positions on certain issues, but "never before has our country been so united" as it is in wanting Noriega's departure and the return of democracy and justice.

He said "Noriega has consistently limited all personal freedoms and has made Panamanians feel they live in a totally oppressive society." The opposition leader also noted that after being in jail for 11 days, he was told the military had instructed that his case not be resolved in his favor. He noted that his case was an example that Panamanian justice is subordinated to the FDP.

De la Lastra added that as a result, he was offered the "alternative of either going to Coiba Island—where prisoners are sent after being sentenced and where conditions are subhuman—or leaving for a country that is not a SELA member." Gonzalez de la Lastra pointed out that at first he decided he would go to Coiba Island. After thinking it over and discussing it with his family and legal advisers, however, he decided to go to Venezuela, because one "can breathe freedom" in that country.

He took the opportunity to emphasize that SELA has just had an "unfortunate participation" in the Panama case by condemning U.S. economic sanctions against Panama. He explained that SELA "forgot that an entire people are demanding justice and freedom," because the economy is directly related to the political problem.

De la Lastra—who was exiled to Venezuela from 1976 to 1979—is a leader of the Civic Crusade, the opposition organization demanding Noriega leave Panama.

Crusade Reports Cuban, Sandinist Presence
PA121344 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1208 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report by Homero Londono from Panama]

[Text] Concerning the presence of the socialist system in Panama, the National Civic Crusade reported in a communique to the Panamanian people the presence of Cuban and Sandinist soldiers brought to Panama by General Noriega because he does not trust his own troops. It has been said that there is a camp in Coclesito under the direction of Mr Lopez Girones, and there is another camp in the area of Cermeno.

It has also been said that there are groups of these Cubans in Chiriqui Province and that the military is repressing the Civic Crusade people.

Government Seeks Latin America Rapprochement
PA121252 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Panama, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian chief executive Solis Palma said that this week he will develop a program of rapprochement with other Latin American countries to seek support "for the defense of national dignity and sovereignty."

According to an official communique, Solis Palma told a West German television channel: "We want the Latin American and world peoples to know that Panama has risen to the occasion and is waging the battle for dignity."

The message from the Press Secretariat of the Presidency cited additional statements by Solis Palma indicating that Panamanians must urgently work in the search for conciliation that will enable them to overcome the economic and political situation.

Solis Palma emphasized that "the way or ways out of the current crisis must consider our position as a free, sovereign, and independent country, while providing solutions to the Panamanian people's problems."

Meanwhile, the Colon Free Zone Board of Directors, located on the Caribbean side of Panama, today issued a communique stating that the current situation puts the very existence of the enterprises and their 8,000 permanent positions "in imminent danger."

The association feels that the social, political, and economic situation in Panama "makes it impossible" for the Free Zone "to function normally." The Panamanian Free Zone is the largest of its kind in Latin America. [passage omitted]

While the government insistently pushes its campaign to further nationalism and makes charges of an alleged U.S. invasion, today representatives of Panamanian private enterprise said that the country is going backwards and that the future is "dramatic."

Carlos Valencia, president of the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists, which is part of the opposition's Civic Crusade, expressed pessimism over the future of the economy and the resolution of the political crisis.

The businessman told ACAN-EFE that "the closure of the banks has accelerated the economic deterioration that was already under way in the country," and that the enterprises still working below their capacity "will have to close" soon.

Major Trujillo Assumes Command of Air Force

PA120146 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0016 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] During a ceremony held yesterday at the installations of the Panamanian Air Force [FAP], Major Jose Hilario Trujillo assumed command of that branch. The outgoing acting chief, Lieutenant Colonel Teodoro Alexander, delivered the command pennant to Colonel Alberto Purcell, subchief of the Air Force General Staff, who, representing the General Staff, placed it in the hands of the incoming chief, Maj Trujillo. Maj Trujillo, Col Alexander, and Col Purcell spoke at the ceremony. Lieutenant Colonels Alfredo Remon and Aristides Hassan were present at the ceremony, as were military attaches accredited to our country, officers, noncommissioned officers, FAP troops—units of the Tocumen 2d Puma Division—and other invited guests.

Government Creates 'National Information System'

PA121854 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 8-B

[Text] The executive branch has issued Decree No 27 of 11 April 1988, which was signed by President Manuel Solis Palma and Minister of the Presidency Nander A. Pitty Velasquez, establishing the state's National Information System (SNI). This institution will be in charge of determining the policies, establishing the guidelines, and conducting the SNI. [sentence as published] Its main task will be coordinating, directing, producing, and following up on information regarding matters of national interest.

The policies and guidelines established by the SNI will be compulsory for public institutions in the central government and decentralized entities and for public enterprises.

The SNI will be under the direction of Nils Castro, whom the executive branch, through Decree No 28 of 11 April 1988, has appointed general coordinator. Castro will assume this position in addition to his duties as Foreign Ministry adviser.

In carrying out his functions, the SNI general coordinator will be assisted by the state's General Directorate of Information and Public Relations and by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency.

All public institutions of the central government, decentralized institutions, and public enterprises will immediately collaborate with the SNI, and will assign personnel from those institutions as required. Those personnel will be offered assistance and cooperation, and will be assigned or allowed to use the necessary equipment to perform their duties.

According to Decree No 27 of 11 April 1988, the SNI general coordinator will gather reliable information from the ministries and other public entities concerning their activities and functions related to both the domestic and foreign policy followed by the Panamanian state.

Argentina

Bombs Explode Near III Corps Headquarters

PY121315 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1140 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Cordoba, 12 Apr (NA)—It was learned today from very reliable sources that two medium-sized bombs exploded during the early morning hours of 9 April in front of the installations of the local military garrison, the III Army Corps.

The sources reported that at approximately 0215 [0515 GMT] on 9 April a device exploded against the elevated crosswalk over the highway that connects this city with the town of La Calera. This elevated crosswalk is located only 50 meters from the main entrance of the III Corps Headquarters .

A few minutes later a similar device exploded along the side of the same highway, close to the General Deheza Military Villa, 500 meters from III Corps Headquarters.

Both explosions blew holes in the highway, but did not cause any further damage. There were no victims.

The sources stated that the perpetrators used TNT with slow-burning fuses, and "it is quite possible they threw the devices from a vehicle that was traveling from west to east along the highway in the darkness."

No military or civilian organization has released any official information on these incidents, and no organization has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Bolivia

Defense Minister Opposes U.S. Military Base

PY130324 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 12 Apr (EFE)—Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo stated here today that the Bolivian Government will in no way authorize the installation of a U.S. military base in its territory.

Revollo said Bolivia maintains strictly commercial relations with the Pentagon. Proof of this is the purchase of 300 trucks, which will arrive in Bolivia in late April, he added.

Revollo added that U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, who arrived in La Paz on Monday, will discuss the role and task performed by the Armed Forces in the antidrug trade program.

The defense minister added that Meese is bringing a number of proposals similar to those he made in other nations and which will be considered by the Bolivian High Military Command and by his ministry.

Revollo said the country is calm and that the government is prepared to fight a possible guerrilla infiltration.

Minister Rejects International Antidrug Force

PY121404 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said Bolivia does not need an international force to combat drug trafficking, and he rejects the presence of such a force for sovereignty reasons.

He said the national government has planned specific actions against drug trafficking, which deserve support from the United States and the United Nations.

The Bolivian foreign minister said that U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese is in Bolivia to discuss bilateral issues. [recorded passage indistinct]

Minister Bedregal said that the government has complied with its commitments regarding the reduction of coca plantations and that Bolivia has surpassed all expectations on this issue. This, he said, demonstrates the Bolivian Government's will to fulfill its agreements with the U.S. Government.

Government Approves New Import Tax Policy

PY122342 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Apr 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Yesterday the government announced a new tax policy to be implemented in the country. This policy is aimed at gradually cutting by half the single 20-percent tax that is levied on imports for the industrial and productive sectors of Bolivia.

The change has been criticized by different sectors because it imposes restrictions on Bolivian industry. It is in keeping, however, with the government's desire to stimulate the productive sector and to make it competitive with foreign products.

In addition, the executive branch has implemented a fixed 10-percent tax on the importation of several products and capital goods which are specified on an official list.

The new tax policy cuts by half the 20-percent tax that has been levied on raw materials that have been imported over the last 21 months to April 1988. [passage omitted]

Police Detain Colombian 'Drug Trafficker'

PY122123 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Santa Cruz, 7 Apr (El Diario)—Today police sources reported the detention of a Colombian drug trafficker whose surname is Pena. He is reportedly involved in the recent murder of two agents of the antidrug-trafficking special forces in this capital.

According to the report, during the operation to detain this Colombian trafficker police raided a house where they found a large number of weapons, comunications equipment, counterfeit dollars, and a large amount of marijuana.

It has been reported that police organizations are carrying out further investigations on this case and that further information will be released within the next few days. It was learned, however, that the Colombian trafficker is quite young and there are important international drug connections involved.

Brazil

Sarney Authorizes Radio Station Privatization

PY130125 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney has authorized the privatization of 15 radio stations that belong to Radiobras [Brazilian Radiobroadcasting Company].

According to Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto, President Sarney has authorized Radiobras to privatize 12 FM stations, 2 AM stations, and a Porto Velho television station, in addition to 5 repeating stations that belong to the same enterprise.

According to Costa Couto, any decision to develop the private sector will have government support:

[Begin recording] We are already thinking of several enterprises and of other organizations. The federal [words indistinct] and the BNDES [National Economic and Social Development Bank] have already announced that they are in a position to privatize at least one company per month. President Sarney has announced his intention of privatizing more than one company per month. Brazilians must rest assured that Brazil will not overlook the modern trend toward privatization. Privatization is the word of order. The government will support anyone who can and wants to develop the private sector. [end recording]

The civilian household chief added that the 1988 budget is still under examination to reduce government expenditures. According to him, the idea is to save at least 1 percent of the GDP.

Chile

Carabineros in Santiago Attacked; 1 Killed

PY121915 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] With reference to the terrorist attack perpetrated against two Carabineros officers of the 7th Carabinero Station in Renca, Santiago, the Carabinero Headquarters of the metropolitan region hereby reports:

At 1010 today Carabinero Cpls Samuel Flores Penailillo and Samuel Lopez Contreras of the 7th Carabinero Station in Renca, who were on duty on the corner of Avenue General Velazquez and Arturo Prat Street, were attacked by four men and one woman who were armed with handguns riding in an Opala car which they had seized from its owner a few minutes earlier.

During the attack, Corporal Lopez Contreras sustained bullet wounds and was immediately taken to the Jose Joaquin Aguirre Hospital, where he died at 1040.

The terrorists seized the corporal's duty Uzi submachinegun and fled in the Opala car, which they then abandoned on the corner of (Condel) and Sector No 1 in Renca District.

Colombia

Government To Buy Aircraft From Israel

TA121352 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Israel will purchase 500,000 metric tons of coal a year from Colombia for the next 4 years. An agreement to this effect was signed this morning in Bogota by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal and his Colombian counterpart. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that upon Minister Shahal's arrival, the local government announced the impending purchase of Kfir aircraft and additional military equipment from Israel to the tune of $250 million.

27 Killed in 'Bloodbath Sweeping' Country

PA121645 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1219 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] At least 27 people have been killed and many wounded in recent hours in a bloodbath sweeping the country, from La Guajira to Caqueta and through Casanares, Antioquia, and even Bogota. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Colombia experienced one of the worst days of recent years. At least nine banana plantation workers were murdered in the Turbo jurisdiction of the Uraba area, Antioquia Department. It is believed that another 15 workers are missing. In Medellin, a professor of the University of Antioquia's School of Dentistry, Jorge Alberto Morales Cardona, was gunned down, while two other professors who were with him, Alcides Edilberto Ortega Sapreo and Gabriel Emilio Espino Botero, were wounded. In Barranca municipality, La Guajira, a narcotics squad was ambushed, and noncommissioned officer Jaime Hernan Lopez was murdered. Three alleged narcotics traffickers—Adolfo Rafael Pinto Camposano, Jesus Salome Vergara, and Oromi Pena Rodriguez—were also killed in the attack.

In a rural area of Villanueva municipality, Casanares Intendancy, three peasants, including a woman and a child, were murdered by terrorists of the outlawed ELN

[Army of National Liberation]. The bodies of three more peasants were found in Montanitas jurisdiction, Caqueta Department. They were apparently killed by the FARC.

Orlando Gonzalez Londono, vice president of the municipal council and president of the Popular Liberal Directorate, was murdered by unidentified individuals in San Geronimo, Antioquia Department. Jorge Luis Leon Montoya, auditor of (El Dobio) municipality in Valle del Cauca Department, was also murdered by hired assassins.

The authorities also reported that the bodies of three peasants were found in (Girones) municipality, Santander Department. It is believed they were murdered a few days ago by guerrillas.

Concluding, it is reported that the home of Gilberto Molina, a well-known emerald dealer in northern Bogota, was attacked with grenades and rockets. Two people, bodyguards Jose Arias and Felipe Perez, were killed in this attack, while Hernando Gomez, an engineer, was wounded. This attack caused considerable material damage as several vehicles parked near Molina's house were destroyed.

Army Officer Dismissed for Trafficker 'Links'

PA121940 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Army Lieutenant Colonel Plinio Libardo Correa Gonzalez has been suddenly dismissed from the Armed Forces for serious violations of military honor. He had been assigned to [words indistinct] in Medellin.

The National Defense Ministry issued an official communique confirming the penalty on Lt Col Plinio Correa, chief of intelligence of that garrison. An honor court confirmed the officer's links with narcotics traffickers in the capital of Antioquia.

The Defense Ministry also reiterated it will be inflexible in enforcing discipline on all members of the Armed Forces and will severely punish those who commit violations.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Leaves for South Africa

PY1204143888 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Apr 88 p 12

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar left for South Africa, heading an official mission. Before boarding the plane, Saldivar told EL DIARIO: "We are going to fulfill a mission entrusted to us by the government. President Stroessner has given us the appropriate instructions, and we seek to promote cooperation with South Africa."

"Paraguay respects international principles, primarily nonintervention in internal affairs of other countries. This is the basis of our relations with all countries, especially those with which we have close diplomatic and cooperative relations, as we do with South Africa."

Saldivar then emphasized that Paraguay wants to be treated in the same way by all countries. "We want to be respected, and we do not want any country to interfere in our domestic affairs," Saldivar added.

Saldivar also said that during his stay in South Africa, he will meet with South African state President P.W. Botha, the foreign minister, and other officials of the South African parliament.

Saldivar added: "We will also tour Johannesburg; Cape Town, the seat of the government; Pretoria; and other cities, where we will meet with local officials."

Judge Summons Miguel Saguier To Testify

PY1204164988 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 10

[Text] Judge Cesar Rey Martinez has agreed to hear the suit filed by the national prosecutor against Miguel Abdon Saguier, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, and opened an investigation into the charges that Saguier incited violence, a crime under Article No 3 of law No 209. Judge Martinez did not order the arrest of Saguier but summoned him to testify in court on 19 April at 0830.

International law experts say that if Saguier appeared in court to testify, the judge could not order his arrest because he is under asylum in the Argentine Embassy in our country. It must be recalled that national prosecutor Clotildo Jimenez has filed charges against Saguier for some statements he made in the United States. On that occasion Saguier said "the Paraguayan Government protects drug trafficking, and there is evidence of a government relationship with drug traffickers."

Laino Denies Wanting To Adopt Nicaraguan Model

PY12041424 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Apr 88 p 7

[Text] Domingo Laino, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), has categoricaly denied a locally published report that the "Lainoist" sector of the PLRA has the secret purpose of adopting the Nicaraguan Sandinist ideology as a political model.

"The report is totally false. There is no such a thing as a Sandinist-leaning faction within the PLRA. On 29 May we will hold a special convention to ensure the participation in the party of its different factions, because the PLRA is multiclass and pluralist," Laino said.

The publication also maintained that the "Lainoist faction has been maintaining for some time that liberalism is obsolete. Laino emphatically refuted this statement, saying that liberalism is the most valid and firm proposal "for the transition from dictatorship to democracy."

Laino recalled that earlier, a weekly mouthpiece of a Colorado Party internal movement published a similar report. This time the article is reproduced in a morning paper as a paid advertisement.

Peru

Rebels Attack, Wound Lima Town Councillor

PY122121 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1741 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 12 Apr (TELAM-DPA)— A new attack, which is evidence of the wave of terrorism and violence that has been unleashed by subversive groups in Peru, occurred this morning in Lima just two blocks away from Government House. The attack resulted in the death of a municipal employee. In adition, a town councillor, presumably the target of the attack, was seriously wounded.

At noon today the police released information that reveals that the terrorists, presumably members of the Maoist organization Shining Path, attacked with bombs and machineguns the pickup truck in which Councillor Gladys Garcia Santibanez and Eng Jorge Barrientos were traveling.

The report adds that while the attackers escaped, covering their escape with dynamite explosions, Garcia was taken to a hospital in serious condition, while Barrientos died in the attack.

According to police, Garcia, who was the target of the attack, is a member of the governing APRA Party and also a municipal inspector for controlling street vendors. She was traveling from one marketplace to another when she was attacked.

This is the second terrorist attack in Lima in the last 24 hours. On 11 April, a Shining Path commando murdered the manager of a textile plant that is having a conflict with its union. The victim was a Yugoslav who had resided in Peru for many years.

Uruguay

Further on Visit by Nicaragua's Borge

On 'Total Confrontation'

PA092136 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] We have an AFP report from Montevideo. Nicaragua will look for a total confrontation if the peace plan being negotiated right now between the Sandinist government and the contras fails, cautioned Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan interior minister and commander of the revolution.

Speaking to hundreds of thousands of people who rallied at a central Montevideo square, Commander Borge said: If there is no alternative, only if there is no alternative, no one will be in a position to question our right to use all means at our disposal to put an end to the war.

Peace in Nicaragua would be a meaningful step in attaining overall peace in Central America. Peace in Nicaragua would be a contribution to world peace, Commander Borge said. He asked what alternative there would be left except a total confrontation if, despite everything Nicaragua does, the United States makes the negotiating process fail anyway.

Borge said that the Nicaraguan Government will use all its resources to put an end to the war and will smash all the resistance it meets from the class formerly in power.

Borge noted: Reagan will make every effort, until his last breath, to defeat the undefeatable Sandinist revolution.

The Nicaraguan interior minister is on an official visit to Uruguay, where he met with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Commander Borge said: We were not forced to negotiate; we decided to negotiate. Borge said that the agreements signed in recent days are aimed at putting an end to the war imposed on Nicaragua, adding that the agreements are not a sign of weakness. Borge added that some Central American leaders were convinced that the counterrevolutionaries lacked a military or political future and strongly believed that the Sandinist revolution was ready to declare a general state of war involving all the people, who together would deal the contras a final blow, and that the contras would be unable to benefit in the slightest from any negotiation. When the time came to sign an agreement, the Sandinists, who are in favor of peace, did not hesitate to sign the Esquipulas agreements.

Borge noted that in Nicaragua there are two kinds of negotiations going on: the national political dialogue and technical cease-fire talks with the contras. Regarding the Sapoa agreements, Commander Borge said that the Sandinist government was the first to comply with them with its action of freeing 100 counterrevolutionary prisoners. He cautioned that the negotiating process is going through its most difficult phase because there are contras who, by virtue of their compulsive affinity with the Reagan administration, are opposed to peace.

With regard to the revolution's development, Tomas Borge described it as an unrenounceable plan that is being defended with rifles, bare hands, Unconventional Warfare Battalions, as well as with convincing, sweet, and sincere words. He said that the Sandinist process does not reject peace, that it wants peace, and that it is determined to pay the price for peace and to assume all the consequences.

On Honesty

PY111438 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has made the following statement in Maldonado, Uruguay: I want to tell you that I am a Marxist, but I would prefer 100 honest Christians to 100 dishonest Marxists. He said that parties wanting to lead must choose honest men. He added that a philosophical concept is one thing and moral standards are something different.

Zumaran Takes Over Blanco Party Faction

PY111836 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Senator Alberto Zumaran, the new leader of the Blanco Party faction for the Fatherland, has stated that this group will follow the course set by the late Wilson Ferreira Aldunate [former Blanco Party president], making sure that the country will remain governable, in order to strengthen the institutions and promote national development.

In the closing address to the faction's national congress, Zumaran said that For the Fatherland will be always ready to work for the country, as Ferreira Aldunate said when he addressed Blanco Party supporters in early December 1984 shortly after being released from prison.

Zumaran recalled that on that occasion, Ferreira Aldunate said the Blanco Party would not assume an attitude of blind opposition toward the Colorado Party, and it will make sure that the country remained governable. Wilson's commitment is our commitment today, Zumaran said.

In his speech, Zumaran pointed out that the Blanco Party does not protest merely for the sake of protesting, clearly referring to the position of the Broad Front. On the contrary, he added, the Blanco Party proposes specific steps for the development and progress of the country.

Zumaran also criticized some aspects of the government's policy by stating that the Colorado Party has devoted itself to managing the crisis instead of trying to find ways to generate wealth.

Zumaran emphasized that, as Ferreira Aldunate stated, the Movement For the Fatherland seeks the unity of the Blanco Party. He added that we have no enemies within our party.

First Official PRC Trade Delegation Visits

PY111541 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0223 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Montevideo, 9 Apr (EFE)—The first PRC trade delegation to visit Uruguay has purchased $50 million worth of wool.

This is the first official PRC delegation to visit Uruguay since the two countries established diplomatic relations on 3 February.

The delegation, headed by Mu Chongkai, deputy director of the Foreign Trade Department [as received] of the PRC Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ministry, met with officials and private businessmen.

The PRC representatives met with Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano, Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino, Industry and Energy Minister Jorge Presno, and Foreign Trade Director Isidoro Hodara.

The visiting delegation also held a meeting with the Uruguayan Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

In addition to the $50 million worth of wool, the PRC delegation bought $7 million worth of frozen fish, and it is studying the possibility of buying soybeans, cellulose, fish meal, squid, tanned hides, caustic soda, and semiprecious stones.

Venezuela

President Lusinchi Pays Visit to Indonesia

For coverage of the 3-day visit of President Dr Jaime Lusinchi in Indonesia, including talks with President Suharto, see the Indonesia section of the 12 April East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

New Leftist Guerrilla Group Emerges

PA071638 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2107 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Caracas, 6 Apr (REUTER)—A new Venezuelan leftist guerrilla group calling itself "Venceremos" made itself known with an attack on the U.S. Embassy and a foiled attack against the Ministry of Defense on 1 April, EL NACIONAL newspaper reported today. [passage omitted]

EL NACIONAL, a respected centrist newspaper, cited security sources who said Venceremos planned to capture diplomatic cars and burn them, and occupy foreign embassies. Police spokesmen contacted by REUTER denied the report. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Opposition Demands Details on Liquid Waste

FL121409 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Guyanese opposition leader Eusi Kwayana has demanded to know financial details of a plan to ship liquid waste from the United States to Guyana for disposal. Two Southern California companies are planning to ship the waste to Guyana for disposal in a power-generating incinerator.

The head of the Working People's Alliance called details of the project very scanty in his address to parliament.

Suriname

Mediators Return After Talks With Guerrillas

FL081938 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A team of mediators sent to try to negotiate an end to the Suriname guerrilla war has returned to Paramaribo after several days of talks with anti-government guerrilla leaders. The team called the talks positive but the Surinamese Government has yet to react. The three religious leaders returned after 4 days of talks in eastern Suriname with guerrilla leader Ronnie Brunswijk. The leader of the group refused to give details of the guerrillas demands but they will hand them to President Ramsewak Shankar today.

Suralco Smelter Prepares To Open Shortly

FL121810 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Yesterday, the first group of workers attached to the smelter at Suralco [Suriname Aluminum Company] [words indistinct] were reemployed. This move is in preparation for the opening of the smelter. The 54 workers will be engaged in maintenance work so that the smelter can become operational shortly. Within 2 weeks, the second group of workers will be reemployed.

The Suralco smelter has been idle for more than 1 year now after energy supplies to the smelter were sabotaged by terrorists. Because of this, Suralco was forced to close the smelter, which resulted in more than 250 workers left with nothing to do. The decision to reemploy the workers was taken by the Suralco board of directors during deliberations with the union.